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Devotions to Saint Joseph

Nihil Obstat **Philippus**
Abbas Neo-Angelo Montanus

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Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration
Clyde, Missouri

St. Joseph, our Father and Protector

Devotions to Saint Joseph

Devotion of the Seven Sundays

AN excellent means to obtain special favors through the intercession of St. Joseph, is to honor his seven sorrows and seven joys by the devotion of the seven Sundays. This devotion may be practiced at any time of the year, but fervent clients of St. Joseph ought to venerate him especially on the seven Sundays preceding his feast. Then they may be assured of obtaining some particular favor, and often they receive something much better than they had expected. St. Teresa tells us that St. Joseph frequently obtained for her a much greater favor than that for which she had petitioned.

The seven Sundays in honor of St. Joseph are kept in the following man-

ner: Receive Holy Communion in his honor on seven consecutive Sundays, and on each Sunday recite the prayers of the seven sorrows and the seven joys of St. Joseph. This devotion was encouraged by the holy patriarch himself.

It is related that two Franciscan friars suffered shipwheck on their voyage across the ocean. By clinging to a plank, they kept themselves above water for three days, but were so violently tossed and buffeted by the waves that they were in danger of being drowned. Having always faithfully venerated St. Joseph, they now fervently invoked his aid in their extreme peril. Lo! their confidence was not in vain. The fury of the storm abated, the sky became clear and the sea calm. Their joy was unspeakable on suddenly beholding a man of celestial beauty, who greeted them and guided them to shore in safety. Having reached land, the two religious cast themselves at the feet of their rescuer to thank him, for

they supposed him to be an angel. "I am Joseph," replied the apparition; "if you wish to do something pleasing to me, then never let a day pass without saying the **Our Father** and **Hail Mary** seven times in honor of the seven sorrows I endured and the seven joys that consoled me, in the days I spent on earth in the company of Jesus and Mary." After these words he vanished, leaving the two religious in blissful rapture.

Dear clients of St. Joseph, you who have so powerful a patron, if you desire to serve him in accordance with his wishes, prefer this devotion to every other in his honor, since he himself designated it and declared how pleasing it is to him. Comply with his wishes in this regard, and rest assured that this devotion will be an excellent means to obtain precious graces and favors through his intercession. We can best recognize our friends when they sympathize with us in our joys and sorrows;

this is where true charity manifests itself. And this is the reason why Holy Church so frequently reminds us of the joyful and sorrowful mysteries in the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. All faithful clients of St. Joseph have joyfully received the devotion of the seven Sundays.

A person desirous of obtaining a special request, may also have Masses said in honor of St. Joseph, or assist at seven Masses, give alms or fast seven times, make seven visits to a chapel or to some image of the saint. One could make a novena by daily saying the prayers of the seven sorrows and joys of St. Joseph, or perform the same for thirty days, and at the close of that period, receive the sacraments. It is something very pleasing to St. Joseph and a great act of charity in his honor, to aid those souls in purgatory who during life practiced special devotion to him. In our various necessities, we might promise St. Joseph that if he

comes to our aid, we will have one or more Masses said for the poor souls, or offer Holy Communion for them.

Devout clients of St. Joseph, hearken to the words of St. Teresa who begs you, for love of God, to make a trial of practicing devotion to this glorious saint; for she experienced the power and aid of St. Joseph's intercession in numerous trials and necessities in an astonishing manner.

Devotion in Honor of the Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph

THE prayers of this devotion were composed by the Ven. Januarius Sarnelli, one of the first members of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732. This devoted client of St. Joseph was penetrated by the spirit of God and an indefatigable zeal for souls. He died in the reputation of eminent sanctity in the year 1744.

Holy Church has approved this devotion and enriched it with the following indulgences: —

1. An indulgence of 100 days, once a day.

2. An indulgence of 300 days, every Wednesday of the year, and on every day of the two novenas preceding the feast of St. Joseph, viz.: the principal feast on March 19th, and the feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph on Wednesday after the second Sunday after Easter.

3. A plenary indulgence on these two feasts to all who worthily receive the sacraments of penance and Holy Eucharist.

4. A plenary indulgence, once a month, on any day of Holy Communion to those who have performed this devotion daily during the month. (Pius VII, Dec. 9, 1819.)

5. A plenary indulgence, applicable to the souls in purgatory, on each Sunday, of any seven consecutive Sundays of the year, to all the faithful, who, having

received Holy Communion, recite the prayers of the Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph. Conditions: — visits to a public oratory and prayer according to the intention of the Holy Father. (Pius IX, Feb. 1, 1847.)

Those who cannot read can gain this indulgence by saying seven times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father*, after having fulfilled the other conditions. (Pius IX, March 22, 1847.)

Prayers

1. O glorious St. Joseph, pure spouse of the most holy Mary, as the trouble and anguish of thy heart was great in the perplexity of abandoning thy most chaste and stainless Spouse, so too, unspeakable was thy delight when the angel revealed to thee the sovereign Mystery of the Incarnation.

Through this sorrow and this joy of thine, we pray thee, now and in our last agony, to comfort our souls with the joy of a good life and of a holy death, like

unto thine between Jesus and Mary.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

2. O glorious St. Joseph, most blessed patriarch, who wast selected for the office of reputed father of the Word-made-man, the grief which thou didst feel at seeing the Child Jesus born in such great poverty was suddenly changed into heavenly exultation at hearing the angelical harmony, and seeing the glories of that resplendent night.

Through this sorrow and this joy of thine we beseech thee to obtain for us, that, after the journey of this life is over, we may pass hence to hear the angelic praises, and to enjoy the splendor of the glory of heaven.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

3. O glorious St. Joseph, who didst fufil most obediently all God's commands: the most Precious Blood which the Child Redeemer shed in the circumcision struck

death into thy heart, but the Name of Jesus revived it, and filled it with joy.

Through this sorrow and this joy of thine, obtain for us, that having been cleansed from all vices during life, we may expire in exultation with the most holy Name of Jesus in our hearts and upon our lips.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

4. O most glorious St. Joseph, most faithful saint, thou who wast a partaker in the mysteries of our Redemption, if Simeon's prophecy of what Jesus and Mary were to suffer caused thee a mortal pang, thou wast filled with a blessed joy at the thought of the salvation and glorious resurrection of innumerable souls, which he at the same time foretold would thence proceed.

By this sorrow and this joy of thine, obtain for us to be of the number of those who, through the merits of Jesus and the intercession of His Virgin Mother, are to rise again in glory.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

5. O glorious St. Joseph, most watchful guardian and faithful attendant of the Incarnate Son of God, how much didst thou suffer in supporting and in serving the Son of the most High, particularly in thy flight with Him into Egypt! But how much, again, didst thou rejoice at having always with thee that same God, and seeing the idols of Egypt fall to the earth!

By this sorrow and this joy of thine, obtain for us, that by keeping far from us hell's tyrant, especially by flying from dangerous occasions, every idol of earthly affections may fall from our heart and that, wholly occupied with the service of Jesus and Mary, we may live for them alone and die a happy death.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

6. O glorious St. Joseph, angel of earth, thou who didst marvel at beholding the King of heaven subject to thy com-

mands, if thy consolation at bringing Him back from Egypt was disturbed by the fear of Archelaus, yet, when reassured by the angel, thou didst dwell in joy with Jesus and Mary at Nazareth.

By this sorrow and this joy of thine, obtain for us that, undisturbed by hurtful fears, we may enjoy peace of conscience and securely live in union with Jesus and Mary, to whom we commend our soul now and at the moment of our death.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

7. O glorious St. Joseph, model of all holiness, through no fault of thine didst thou lose the Child Jesus, whom for three days thou soughtest sorrowing until, with a most joyful heart, thou didst find Him in the temple among the doctors.

Through this sorrow and this joy of thine, we fervently supplicate thee to interpose in our behalf, that it may never befall us to lose Jesus by mortal sin; but, if unhappily we ever should lose Him, we

may seek Him again with unwearied sorrow, until we find His favor once more, and so pass to the enjoyment of Him in heaven, there with thee to sing His mercies for all eternity.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

Antiphon. Jesus was beginning about the age of thirty years, being (as it was supposed) the son of Joseph!

V. Pray for us, St. Joseph!

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O God, who by Thy ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph for the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that he whom we venerate as our protector on earth may be our intercessor in heaven. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Novenas

In Special Necessities

O HOLY Joseph, thou who wast never invoked in vain, whose arms are ever open to receive the poor and afflicted who have recourse to thee, whose heart is ever accessible to those who seek refuge with thee, mercifully cast a glance of pity on my great misery. Thou knowest the great trial that God sees fit to send me, thou knowest the excessive grief that fills my heart. The cross weighs heavily on my shoulders, "for the hand of the Lord hath touched me."

In vain have I raised my voice to the throne of Divine Majesty; the Lord does not hearken to my petitions. I have indeed deserved these trials, these temptations, these afflictions, for I have sinned much and therefore I must suffer. But do thou, O St. Joseph, whose influence with God is so great, do thou, beloved father, make intercession for me with Jesus. Oh, do thou be my advocate with thy Divine Son,

whose protector, foster-father and solicitous guardian thou hast been. Add to thy great glory also this, that thou wilt give aid in the hopeless affairs which I now commend to thee.

I believe, yes, I believe that thou canst deliver me from my afflictions and wilt grant my petition. I have unshaken confidence in thee that thou wilt leave nothing undone to assist one in distress who humbly and fervently asks thy help. Behold me here at thy feet, O good St. Joseph! Look upon me, have pity on my sighs and tears. Do not abandon me; I will not depart until thou spread over me the mantle of thy compassion, and promise me thy intercession with God.

Now pray the **Our Father, Hail Mary** and **Glory be to the Father** three times, in thanksgiving to God for the graces and prerogatives bestowed on St. Joseph; then ask his blessing.

Petition for St. Joseph's Blessing

Bless me, O my dearly beloved Father, St. Joseph, bless my body and my soul; bless my resolutions, my words and deeds, all my actions and omissions, my every step; bless all that I possess, all my interior and exterior goods, that all may redound to the greater honor of God. Bless me for time and eternity and preserve me from every sin.

Obtain for me the great grace to make atonement for all my sins by love and contrition here on earth, so that, after my last breath, I may without delay, prostrate at thy feet, return thee thanks in heaven for all the love and goodness thou, O dearest Father, didst show me here below. Amen.

Offering

O ye three best friends, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, accept these three *Our Fathers* from me, a poor sinner, and grant that my prayer may be pleasing to you. Let my sighs penetrate to your hearts, that my petition may be favorably received.

I beseech you by the faithful love which you had for one another, and by all the compassion you ever showed to those in distress, show your love also to me in my present need and grant my earnest petition.

A Second Novena

O GLORIOUS descendant of the kings of Juda! inheritor of the virtues of all the patriarchs! just and happy St. Joseph, listen to my prayer. Thou art my glorious protector, and shalt ever be, after Jesus and Mary, the object of my profound veneration and tender confidence. Thou art the most hidden, though the greatest saint, and art the special patron of those who serve God with the greatest purity and fervor. In union with all those who have ever been devoted to thee, I now dedicate myself to thy service, beseeching thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who vouchsafed to love and obey thee as a son, to become a father to me and to obtain for me the filial

respect, confidence and love of a child towards thee. O powerful advocate of all Christians! whose intercession, as St. Teresa assures us, has never been found to fail, deign to intercede for me now, and to implore for me the particular intention of this novena. *Specify it.*

Present me, O great Saint, to the Adorable Trinity, with whom thou hadst so glorious and so intimate communication. Obtain that I may never efface by sin the sacred image to the likeness of which I was created. Beg for me, that my Divine Redeemer would kindle in my heart, and in all hearts, the fire of His love, and infuse therein the virtues of His Adorable infancy: His purity, simplicity, obedience, and humility. Obtain for me likewise a lively devotion to thy Virgin Spouse, and protect me so powerfully in life and death that I may have the happiness of dying as thou didst, in the friendship of my Creator, and under the immediate protection of the Mother of God.

A Short Novena

O GLORIOUS St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace we now implore. *Name it. . .*

O guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that thy prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Then the following versicle is to be said seven times in honor of the seven joys and seven sorrows of St. Joseph.

V. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love thou bearest to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His Name,

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Prayer to St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Holy Church

O GLORIOUS St. Joseph, thou wast chosen by God to be the reputed father of Jesus, the most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, and the head of the Holy Family. Thou hast been chosen by God's Vicar as the heavenly patron and protector of the Church founded by Christ. Therefore, with the greatest confidence I implore thy peaceful assistance for the whole Church militant. Protect, in a special manner, with true fatherly love, the sovereign Pontiff and all the bishops and priests in communion with the See of Peter. Be the protector of all who labor for souls amid the trials and tribulations of this life; and grant that all the nations of the earth may submit with docility to that Church out of which there is no salvation.

Dearest St. Joseph, accept the offering I now make of myself to thee. I dedicate

myself to thy service that thou mayest ever be my father, my protector and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent love for the interior life. Grant that, after thy example, all my actions may be directed to the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and thy own paternal heart. Finally, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.

Indulgence of 300 days, once a day. Leo XIII, July 18, 1886.

Prayer in Any Difficulty

WITH childlike confidence, I present myself before thee, O holy Joseph, thou faithful foster-father of Jesus! I beg thy compassionate intercession and support in this, my present necessity. I firmly believe that thou art most powerful near the throne of God, who chose thee for the reputed father of His well-beloved

Son, Christ Jesus. O blessed saint, thou who didst save that Treasure of heaven, with His virginal Mother, from the rage of His enemies, didst with untiring industry supply His earthly wants, and with paternal care accompany and protect Him in all the journeys of His childhood, take me, also, for the love of Jesus, as thy child. Assist me in my present difficulty with thy prayers before God. The infinite goodness of our Savior who honored and loved thee as His father upon earth, cannot refuse thee any request now in heaven.

Ah, how many pious souls have sought help from thee in their needs, and have experienced to their joy, how good, how ready to assist thou art! How quickly thou dost turn to those that call upon thee with confidence! How powerful thou art in bringing help and restoring joy to anxious and dejected hearts! Therefore do I fly to thee, O most worthy foster-father of Jesus, most chaste spouse of Mary! Good St. Joseph, I pray thee, by the burning love thou didst have for Jesus

and Mary upon earth, console me in my distress, and present my petition, through Jesus and Mary, before the throne of God! One word from thee will move my afflicted soul. Then, most joyfully shall I praise Him and thee, and most earnest shall be my thanksgivings! Amen.

Litany of St. Joseph

LORD, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven,*
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God, the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Holy Mary,†
St. Joseph,
Illustrious son of David,
Light of the patriarchs,

*Have mercy on us.
†Pray for us.

Spouse of the Mother of God,*
Chaste protector of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Christ's valiant defender,
Head of the Holy Family,
St. Joseph, most just,
St. Joseph, most chaste,
St. Joseph, most prudent,
St. Joseph, most courageous,
St. Joseph, most obedient,
St. Joseph, most faithful,
Mirror of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of laborers,
Honor of domestic life,
Guardian of virgins,
Support of families,
Comfort of the suffering,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of the evil spirits,
Protector of our Holy Church,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins

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*Pray for us.

of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us, O Lord.

V. He has made him the lord of His house,
R. And the ruler of all His possessions.

LET US PRAY

O God, who in Thy unspeakable Providence hast been pleased to choose St. Joseph as the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that as we venerate him as our protector on earth, so we may merit to have him as our intercessor in heaven. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

Ind. of 300 days, once a day. Pius X.

Praises of St. Joseph

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Ever blessed, O great patriarch, St. Joseph, be thy soul, which was adorned with all the virtues and gifts of the Holy Ghost. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy patriarch, Joseph, be thy intellect, which was full of the most sublime knowledge of God, and enlightened with revelations. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy patriarch, Joseph, be thy memory, which always sweetly and fondly remembered Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy patriarch, Joseph, be thy will, which was all inflamed with love for Jesus and Mary, and always perfectly conformable to the Divine will. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy patriarch, Joseph, be thy eyes, to which it was granted to

look continually upon Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy patriarch, Joseph, be thy ears, which merited to hear the sweet words of Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O dear St. Joseph, be thy tongue, which continually praised God, and with profound humility and reverence conversed with Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O chaste St. Joseph, be thy most pure and love-glowing heart, with which thou didst ardently love Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O holy Joseph, be thy thoughts, words and actions, each and all of which ever tended to the service of Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O great patriarch, St. Joseph, be all the moments of thy life, which thou didst spend in the service of Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O my protector, St. Joseph, be that moment of thy life, in which thou didst most sweetly die in the arms of Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed, O glorious St. Joseph, be that moment, in which thou didst enter into the eternal joys of heaven. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Ever blessed in eternity, O happy St. Joseph, be every moment, in which until now, thou, in union with all the other saints of heaven, didst enjoy the incomprehensible bliss of union with God, with Jesus and Mary. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

O my dear protector! be thou ever blessed by me and by all creatures, for all eternity, with all the blessings which the Most Holy Trinity bestowed on thee; and with all the benedictions given thee by Jesus and Mary and by the whole Church, triumphant and militant. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

O thrice holy Joseph! blessed in soul and body, in life and death, on earth and in heaven, obtain also for me, a poor sinner, but nevertheless thy true and faithful client, a share in thy blessings, the grace to imitate thee, ardently to love and faithfully to serve Jesus, Mary and thyself, and especially the happiness to die in thy holy arms. Amen. *Glory be to the Father, etc.*

Prayer to St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

MOST powerful patriarch, St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, which has always invoked thee in anxiety and trouble, from the exalted seat of thy glory, cast a loving glance upon the whole Catholic world. Let thy fatherly heart be touched at the sight of the mystical Spouse and the Vicar of Christ overwhelmed with sorrow and persecuted by powerful enemies. Oh! by the bitter anguish thou didst experience upon earth, dry the tears of the venerable Pontiff,

defend him, liberate him, intercede for him with the Giver of peace and charity, that, all adversity being removed and all error dissipated, the entire Church may serve God in perfect liberty. Amen.

Indulgence of 100 days, once a day. Leo XIII, March 4, 1882.

Consecration to St. Joseph

By Ven. Henry Maria Boudon

I CAST myself at thy feet, O glorious St. Joseph, and sincerely venerate thee as the chaste spouse of the Mother of God, as the head of the holiest Family that ever existed, as the foster-father of Jesus Christ, as the faithful preserver of the treasures of the Blessed Trinity. In thee I venerate the choice of God the Father who desired to share with thee His power over His Eternal, only-begotten Son. In thee I venerate the choice of God the Son, who wished to be dependent on thee and to owe His subsistence to the labor of thy hands. In thee I venerate the choice of God the Holy Ghost, who wished to entrust to thee

His faithful Spouse and to give thee to her as her guardian and companion through life.

I congratulate thee on the privilege of being permitted to carry Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in thy arms, to press Him to thy bosom, to embrace Him lovingly, and that during the sweet caresses with which He so often favored thee, thou wast permitted to bedew Him with thy tears. Who can comprehend the overwhelming treasures of light, wisdom and grace, which thou didst acquire during the time thou didst live in the company of Jesus and Mary!

Penetrated with reverence and love at sight of thy greatness and sanctity, I offer and consecrate to thee my heart. After Jesus and Mary, thou shalt be its lord and master. Henceforth I shall consider thee as my father and protector, and do thou regard me as thy child. Let me experience the effects of the high esteem in which thou art held by God, and thy tender love towards me who have commended myself to thy keeping.

Obtain for me a sincere and lasting conversion, with all the graces I need to fulfil the adorable will of God. Obtain for me that spirit of interior recollection, that fidelity towards grace, that intimate union with God, that profound humility, that perfect conformity to the Divine will, that patience in trials, that perfect devotedness to the ways of Divine Providence, and especially that fervent love for the most sacred Person of Jesus Christ and for Mary, His Immaculate Mother: the virtues which constitute thy special, incomprehensible sanctity.

Take under thy protection, O great saint, the pious souls who, after thy example, endeavor to imitate Jesus and Mary by leading a hidden, secluded life.

Finally, O glorious saint, through the singular grace of thy blissful death in the arms of Jesus and Mary, obtain for me a similar death, with perfect resignation to the will of God and the assistance of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Salutations to St. Joseph

M. Olier

I salute thee, Joseph, image of God the Father.

I salute thee, Joseph, reputed father of God the Son.

I salute thee, Joseph, sanctuary of the Holy Spirit.

I salute thee, Joseph, beloved of the Most Blessed Trinity.

I salute thee, Joseph, most faithful assistant of the great Council.

I salute thee, Joseph, most worthy spouse of the Virgin Mother.

I salute thee, Joseph, spiritual father of the faithful.

I salute thee, Joseph, guardian of virginal souls.

I salute thee, Joseph, model of patience and meekness.

I salute thee, Joseph, mirror of humility and obedience.

I salute thee, Joseph, protector of the Holy Church.

Blessed are the eyes which have seen what thou hast seen.

Blessed are the ears which have heard what thou hast heard.

Blessed are thy hands which touched the Word Incarnate.

Blessed are thy arms which carried Him who carries all things.

Blessed is thy bosom on which the Son of God sweetly reposed.

Blessed is thy heart which, on the Heart of Jesus, was inflamed with ardent love.

Blessed be the Eternal Father who chose thee for so sublime a dignity.

Blessed be the Son of God who loved thee as His father.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost who sanctified thee in so marvelous a manner.

And blessed be Mary, thy Spouse, who loved thee as her spouse and brother.

Blessed be the angel who guarded thee on earth.

Blessed be forever all who venerate and love thee.

Confidential Prayer to St. Joseph

By P. Martin v. Cochem

O DEAR St. Joseph, faithful foster-father of Jesus Christ, I devoutly come before thy sacred image, and implore thy aid and intercession in my present necessity. I know and firmly believe that to thee all things are possible with God, and that the sweet Infant Jesus, who on earth was subject to thee, His reputed father, can now in heaven refuse thee no just request. Thy faithful servant, the seraphic St. Teresa, experienced this, and declared that never did she present to thee a petition that thou didst not grant; at the same time she invites all to have recourse to thee assuring them that they will not depart from thee unconsoled.

Encouraged by this promise, I fly to thee, O holy Joseph, foster-father of Jesus

Christ and chaste spouse of Mary, beseeching thee by the tender love thou didst bear to both, to bestow on me thy love and mercy. Comfort me in my present trial and affliction, and obtain for me through Jesus and Mary, that God the Father may grant my petition. Send up to the Heart of thy beloved Jesus but a single sigh, lovingly present to Him my request; then I shall certainly obtain it, and be consoled in my distress. (To obtain this favor I shall now say three *Our Fathers and Hail Marys* and thereby fervently recommend to thee this necessity.)

Daily Prayer for Protection

By P. Martin v. Cochem

HAIL, St. Joseph, I, thy unworthy child, greet thee! Thou art the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate thee. Thou knowest that I have special confidence in thee, and after Jesus and Mary place all my hope of salvation in thee, for thou art all-powerful

with God and wilt never abandon thy faithful servants. Therefore I humbly invoke thee, and commend myself with all who are dear to me, and my entire possessions to thy secure protection and powerful intercession. I beseech thee by the love of Jesus and Mary, do not abandon me during life, and assist me at the hour of my death. Amen.

This prayer is especially appropriate on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19th, and the feast of his Solemnity after Easter.

A Favorite Prayer

WE come to thee, O blessed Joseph, in our sore distress, and having sought the aid of thy most blessed Spouse, we confidently implore thy assistance also. We humbly beg that, mindful of the dutiful affection which bound thee to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and of the fatherly love wherewith thou didst cherish the Child Jesus, thou wilt lovingly watch over the heritage which Jesus Christ purchased with His Blood and by thy

powerful intercession help us in our urgent need. Most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen race of Jesus Christ; drive far from us, most loving father, every pest of error and corrupting sin. From thy place in heaven, most powerful protector, graciously come to our aid in this conflict with the powers of darkness, and as of old thou didst deliver the Child Jesus from supreme peril of life, so now defend the Holy Church of God from the snares of her enemies and from all adversity. Have each of us always in thy keeping, that following thy example, and borne up by thy strength, we may be able to live holily, die happily, and so enter the everlasting bliss of heaven. Amen.

An indulgence of 300 days, once a day. Leo XIII, Sept. 21, 1889.

An indulgence of 7 years and 7 quarantines when recited after the public recitation of the Rosary, during the month of October. Leo XIII, Aug. 15, 1889.

Memorare of St. Joseph

REMEMBER, O most pure spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, my sweet protector, St. Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to thy protection or implored thy aid, without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in thy goodness, I come to thee, and humbly supplicate thee. Despise not my petitions, O foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

Indulgence of 300 days, once a day. Pius IX, June 26, 1863.

A Devotion for March

Special favors have been obtained by the recital of the following short prayer and versicle in honor of the glorious St. Joseph:

O GLORIOUS St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and

temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death and the special favor we now implore. *Name it...*

O guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that thy prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Then the following versicle is to be said seven times in honor of the seven joys and seven sorrows of St. Joseph:

V. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His Name,

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

PRAYER

O glorious St. Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a pure, humble, and charitable mind, and perfect resignation to the Divine will. Be my guide, father, and model through life, that I may merit to die as thou didst in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Prayer for a Lively Faith

HAPPY, blissful St. Joseph, thou heir of the faith of all the patriarchs, vouchsafe to obtain for me this beautiful and precious virtue. Increase in me a lively faith, the foundation of all sanctity, that faith without which no one can be pleasing to God.

Obtain for me that faith which triumphs over all temptations of the world and conquers human respect; which can be shaken by nothing, and is directed solely towards God. Cause me after thy example to live by faith, to subject my heart and understanding to God, that once I may behold in heaven what I now firmly believe on earth.

Prayer to St. Joseph for Purity

GUARDIAN and father of virgins, holy Joseph, to whose faithful care Christ Jesus, innocence itself, and Mary, Virgin of virgins, were committed, I pray and beg thee by these dear pledges, Jesus and

Mary, free me from all uncleanness, and enable me with spotless mind, pure heart and chaste body, ever faithfully to serve Jesus and Mary most chastely. Amen.

Indulgence of 100 days, once a day. Pius IX, Feb. 4, 1877.

Prayer to Obtain a Conversion

O GLORIOUS patriarch, who didst merit to be called *just* by the Holy Ghost, I urgently recommend to thee the soul of (N. N.), which Jesus redeemed at the price of His Precious Blood. Thou knowest how deplorable is the state, and unhappy the life of those who have banished this loving Savior from their hearts, and how greatly they are exposed to the danger of losing Him eternally. Permit not, I beseech thee, that a soul so dear to me should continue any longer in its evil ways; preserve it from the danger that threatens it; touch the heart of this prodigal child, and conduct him back to the bosom of the fondest of fathers.

Abandon him not, I implore thee, till thou hast opened to him the gates of the heavenly city, where he will praise and bless thee throughout eternity for the happiness which he will owe to thy powerful intercession.

Offering to St. Joseph

GREAT St. Joseph, thou generous depositary and dispenser of immortal riches, behold us prostrate at thy feet, conjuring thee to receive us as thy servants and thy children. Next to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, of which thou art the faithful copy, we acknowledge that there is no heart more tender, more compassionate, than thine. What, then, have we to fear, or rather, for what should we not hope, if thou dost deign to be our benefactor, our master, our model, our father and our mediator?

Refuse not, then, this favor, O powerful protector! We ask it of thee by the love thou hast for Jesus and Mary. Into thy hands we commit our souls and bodies,

but above all the last moment of our lives. May we, after having honored, imitated, and served thee on earth, eternally sing with thee the mercies of Jesus and Mary. Amen.

Surrender to St. Joseph

MOST holy Joseph, adopted father of Jesus, and worthy spouse of the Mother of God, prostrate at thy feet, I offer to thee my most profound respect, together with all that I am and have, joyfully submitting to thy government. I consecrate myself wholly to thy service. If I am not worthy to be called thy child, receive me as thy servant. I prefer this honor to the greatest which the world can bestow. Accept, then, O blessed patriarch, the covenant which I form, not to let a day pass without testifying that dependence on thee in which I desire to live and die. Amen.

Prayer of Parents to the Holy Family

JESUS, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, well-beloved Son of the Blessed Virgin and Foster-Child of St. Joseph, we most fervently implore Thee through Mary, Thy ever blessed Mother and Thy adopted father, St. Joseph, take our children in Thy special charge and enclose them in the love of Thy Sacred Heart. They are the children of the Father in heaven, who were created after His own image; they are Thy possession, for Thou hast purchased them with Thy Precious Blood; they are temples of the Holy Ghost, who sanctified them in baptism and implanted in their hearts the virtues of faith, hope and charity.

O most loving Jesus, rule and guide them, that they may live according to our holy Faith, that they may not waver in their confidence in Thee and may ever remain faithful in Thy love.

O Mary, blessed Mother of Jesus, grant to our children a place in thy sacred,

maternal Heart! Spread over them thy protecting mantle when danger threatens their innocence; keep them firm when they are about to stray from the path of virtue, and should they have the misfortune to fall, oh, then raise them up again, and reconcile them with thy Divine Son.

And thou, O holy foster-father, St. Joseph, do not abandon our children! Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy, and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body. O dear parents of the Holy Child Jesus! intercede for us also, that we may bring up our children in the love and fear of God, and once attain with them to the Beatific Vision. Amen.

Covenant of Love with Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I A poor creature, offer and consecrate to the three most loving and amiable hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, my whole life, all my labors, trials and sufferings, that henceforth I may be inclosed in

your love and belong to you entirely, with the intention to do and suffer everything for the love of you, and to renounce everything that might displease or separate me from you.

I consecrate to you my heart, that by its every pulsation I may offer you in sincere love, all the homage that a devout heart is capable of rendering.

I consecrate to you my tongue to offer you all praise, all gratitude, that is due to you, and to atone for all the ignominy with which you have ever been offended.

I consecrate to you my eyes, that they may ever remain pure, and I may once be permitted to gaze upon you in heaven.

I consecrate to you my hands, that in spirit I may embrace you and in fervent love press you to my heart.

I consecrate to you my feet, that every step may be for you, and that through you I may advance in every virtue.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I will belong to you in life and in death. Amen.

Patron of a Happy Death

IT is an undeniable fact, that St. Joseph is a special protector of the dying, and that he is solicitous for his clients who are in their last agony. Numberless persons who practiced special devotion to St. Joseph during life have made this experience. At the hour of death, man is subject to untold suffering and anguish. At that supreme moment, every Christian must undergo a terrible trial, on the final decision of which depends eternal joy or endless woe. The fury of hell, the remembrance of past sins, the uncertainty of the future, the pains of death, terror of the judgment, — all these are a flood of sufferings. **What saint could defend us better than St. Joseph whom the whole Christian world acknowledges as the protector and patron of the dying!**

There are three reasons why St. Joseph is a special patron of the dying.

1. He is the foster-father of the Judge,

who can refuse him nothing. 2. He is terrible to the demons; the Church calls him the conqueror of hell. 3. His death was so glorious; he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, and this is the principal reason why he is the patron of a happy death: so blissful, so glorious was the death of no other saint. It is said that days before St. Joseph died, hosts of angels came down from heaven to console him, and to sing heavenly canticles. We can well imagine how Jesus poured out streams of interior bliss and heavenly consolations on His foster-father for all he had done for Him. What love and solicitude the Blessed Virgin must have shown him! Both Jesus and Mary closed his eyes in death, both shed tears at his departure. Jesus wept over Lazarus, how must He have wept over St. Joseph!

Wonderful examples could be mentioned from the lives of many common Christians how **St. Joseph obtained for them a happy death** because during life

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

they had prayed to him for this grace. Let us daily ask him to assist us at the hour of death and remind him of his own glorious departure in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Prayers for a Happy Death

O BLESSED St. Joseph, who didst yield thy last breath in the fond embrace of Jesus and Mary, when death shall close my career, come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary to aid me, and obtain for me the only solace which I ask at that hour, to die under their protection. Living and dying, into your sacred hands, O Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I commend my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.

Indulgence of 300 days, each time. Pius VII, April 28, 1807.

Another Prayer

Hail, Joseph, most holy Patriarch! virginal spouse of the Virgin Mother of God and adopted father of Jesus! Thou wast worthy of seeing, hearing, embracing, saluting the Infant Incarnate Word, and didst enjoy the singular privilege of most sweet converse with Jesus and Mary. As it was in their arms thy immaculate soul passed forth from thy chaste body, be to me a powerful defender in the agony of death; and as thou didst surpass all in sanctity on earth and in glory among the blessed, obtain for me a holy life, and a glorious immortality. Amen.

Prayer to Jesus, Mary and Joseph for a Happy Death

O MY dearest and most beloved Jesus, who didst sacrifice everything, even Thy life, for my soul, that it should not be lost, be to me a *Jesus* in my last hour, and deliver my soul from the power of her enemies. Alas! weak and wretched that I am, who have fallen in so many temp-

tations, how shall I stand my final struggle and escape the last temptations of the wicked enemy, if Thou, O my Jesus, shouldst desert me, and not put the evil one to flight?

By that dereliction which Thou didst endure for me on the Cross, and by the agony of death Thou didst suffer for me, I earnestly beseech Thee, do not abandon me in my last agony, lest I be overcome by faint-heartedness. Strengthen my faith, support my hope, preserve and increase my charity, and grant me the grace to yield my spirit with perfect resignation into the hands of Thy Heavenly Father, that I may not be dejected and may obtain a propitious and merciful judgment. Oh, do not permit that Thy Precious Blood, Thy bitter Passion and death shall have been in vain for me!

O Mary, most tender Virgin and Mother of Jesus, thou health of the sick, thou hope of the dying, ah, behold how miserable and poor I am! Come to my assistance in my distress, O thou comfort-

ress of the afflicted, and comfort my heart also. Thou, after God, art my surest hope, and I firmly believe that God cannot cast me away, as long as thou art my Mother and art solicitous for me; yes I believe that I cannot be lost if I hold fast to thee.

O my loving Mother, do not let my confidence be confounded. With all possible fidelity, I commend to thee my poor soul, and enclose it in thy most sweet Mother-heart, not only now, but especially in my last agony, when I shall be abandoned by the world. Remember me then; come to my aid when my strength fails me, when my terror increases and my tongue is no longer able to pronounce the Holy Name of Jesus, and thy own consoling name, O beloved Mother. Remember then my earnest pleading, and let my poor soul experience thy tender solicitude, that I may arrive happily at the end of my earthly pilgrimage. Amen.

St. Joseph, faithful foster-father of Christ, thou hast been appointed by God as a special patron of the dying, and as

such does Holy Church venerate thee. I therefore invoke thee in my distress and commend to thee my departure from this world.

O dear St. Joseph, obtain for me the grace that I may also have the inexpressible happiness of dying assisted by Jesus and Mary. O dear saint, when my soul is seized with fear in the agony of its last struggle, do thou call upon thy Divine Foster-Child, and thy most holy Spouse, that the evil one may not approach, and that my soul may depart in peace. Amen.

For the Agonizing

Prayer

ETERNAL Father, by Thy love for St. Joseph, whom Thou didst choose in preference to all men to represent Thee on earth, have mercy on us and on the dying.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

Eternal Divine Son, by Thy love for

St. Joseph, who was Thy faithful guardian on earth, have mercy on us and on the dying.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

Eternal Divine Spirit, by Thy love for St. Joseph, who so carefully watched over Mary, Thy beloved Spouse, have mercy on us and the dying.

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father.

Indulgence of 300 days, once a day. Leo XIII, May 17, 1884.

Litany

LORD, have mercy on us.
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord have mercy on us.
Christ hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven,*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, one God,

*Have mercy on us.

St. Joseph, foster-father of Christ,*
St. Joseph, patron of the dying,
Obtain for him† forgiveness of his† sins,
Obtain for him great patience,
Obtain for him perfect resignation,
Obtain for him a living and unshaken faith,
Obtain for him a firm confidence,
Obtain for him ardent charity,
Avert from him the attacks of the enemy,
Protect him from the temptations that assail him,
Preserve him from despondency and despair,
Obtain for him the grace of Jesus Christ,
Assist him and do not abandon him,
Come to his aid in his weakness,
Assist him in his abandonment,
Obtain for him a happy death,
Obtain for him a merciful judgment,
Conduct his soul to the vision of Jesus,
There obtain mercy for him.

---

*We beseech thee, hear us.
†or her.

Ejaculations

To be pronounced to a dying person

O God, be gracious to me; O God, have mercy on me; O God, forgive me my sins!

God the Father, have mercy on me; O Jesus, be gracious to me; O Holy Ghost, strengthen me!

O God the Father, do not reject me; O Jesus, do not abandon me; O God the Holy Ghost, do not forsake me!

O my God, into Thy hands I commend my spirit! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Jesus, Son of Mary, have mercy on me!

O Jesus, I believe in Thee; O Jesus, I hope in Thee; O Jesus, I love Thee!

O Jesus, I place all my trust in Thy bitter Passion!

O Jesus, in Thy Sacred Wounds I hide myself!

O Jesus, I enclose myself in Thy Sacred Heart!

Holy Mary, Mother of God, assist me!

Holy Mary, protect me from the evil spirit!

O Mary, turn thine eyes of mercy on me!

O Mary of mercy, obtain grace for me from thy dear Son!

Come to my aid, O Mary, in this my anguish and need!

O Mary, enclose me in thy virginal Heart!

O Mary, commend me to thy Son, present me to thy Son, reconcile me with thy Son!

St. Joseph, obtain for me grace and mercy!

O St. Joseph, assist me in my struggle against the enemy of my salvation!

St. Joseph, to thee I entrust my soul, do thou save it for me!

St. Joseph, remember me, and obtain mercy for me!

O holy guardian angel, do not abandon me, but combat for me and preserve me from the evil one!

My dear patron saint, pray for me!

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, into Thy hands I commend my spirit!

Prayer for the Agonizing

O JOSEPH, protector of those in agony, take pity on such as, at this very moment when I pray to thee, are engaged in their last combat. Take pity on my soul when the hour shall have come when I must wage it. Then, O my holy patron, do not abandon me; but in granting me thy assistance, show that thou art my good father, and grant that my Divine Savior may receive me in mercy into that abode where the elect enjoy a life that shall never end!

Petition for Our Dying Moments

O GLORIOUS St. Joseph, whom I contemplate dying between Jesus and Mary, obtain for me, as well as for all those who are dear to me, the grace of leading a life like unto thine, so that we may die, like

thee, the death of the just, assisted in our last struggle by our Divine Savior and His most holy Mother. O Joseph, O holy patron of a good death, I take refuge at the foot of thy altar, to implore thee to succor me at the moment when the sovereign Judge will call me to appear in His presence. When my eyes shall be ready to close to the light of this world, when my tongue shall be able only with difficulty to repeat the names of Jesus and Mary, come then to me — come to present my soul to God, who wished to be to thee as a son, and obtain that the sentence He shall pronounce over me may make me a partaker of the glory thou dost enjoy in heaven. Amen.

Blessing of St. Joseph

May the poverty of my sweet and suffering little Child be thy riches; His sighs and His tears, the consolation of thy days; the love of His Infant Heart, all thy earthly treasure; and the clear vision of His Adorable and glorified Humanity, thy eternal joy and recompense. Amen.

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